

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 39, 41 to 64 and 72 without prejudice. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting an NK- or a T cell-expressed cell surface Mast cell function associated antigen (MAFA) binding to a ligand on a target cell in vitro or ex vivo comprising the following steps

- (a) providing an anti-MAFA antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds to a MAFA polypeptide set forth in any of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3 or 5, wherein antibody binding to the MAFA polypeptide inhibits the binding of NK or T cell expressed cell surface MAFA to the ligand on the target cell; and
- (b) contacting the anti-MAFA antibody or the antigen binding fragment thereof to the NK or the T cell or the target cell in vitro or ex vivo in an amount sufficient to inhibit cell surface MAFA binding to the ligand on the target cell.

66.-70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, wherein binding of the anti-MAFA antibody or the fragment thereof to the MAFA expressed on the NK or T cells generates an inhibitory signal to the NK or the T cell that inhibits ~~an activity of the NK or the T cell~~ NK cell- or T cell-mediated cytotoxicity.

72. (Cancelled)